

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on January 17, 2008. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-30 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 28; 2) not added any claims; and 3) not canceled any claims. As such, claims 1 - 30 remain pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now represented.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 5 for having two "start" blocks and reference number sequence 500 - 503. The Applicant has submitted herewith proposed replacement drawings that re-labels the lowest "start" block as a "stop" block and renumbers the reference numbers as 501 - 504. The Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection has been obviated by way of these typographical changes. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 26 and 27 are objected to because of informalities. The Applicant has amended these claims to cure these deficiencies and respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection has been removed.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah, U.S. Publication 2003/0005173 (hereinafter "Shah") in view of Ullman, et al., U.S. Patent 7,120,685 (hereinafter "Ullman"). Shah was cited as covering all claimed features except for minimum and maximum severity levels. Claim 1 of the instant application recites (emphasis added):

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

defining a severity level for a first controller, the first controller processing messages based on the defined effective severity level;

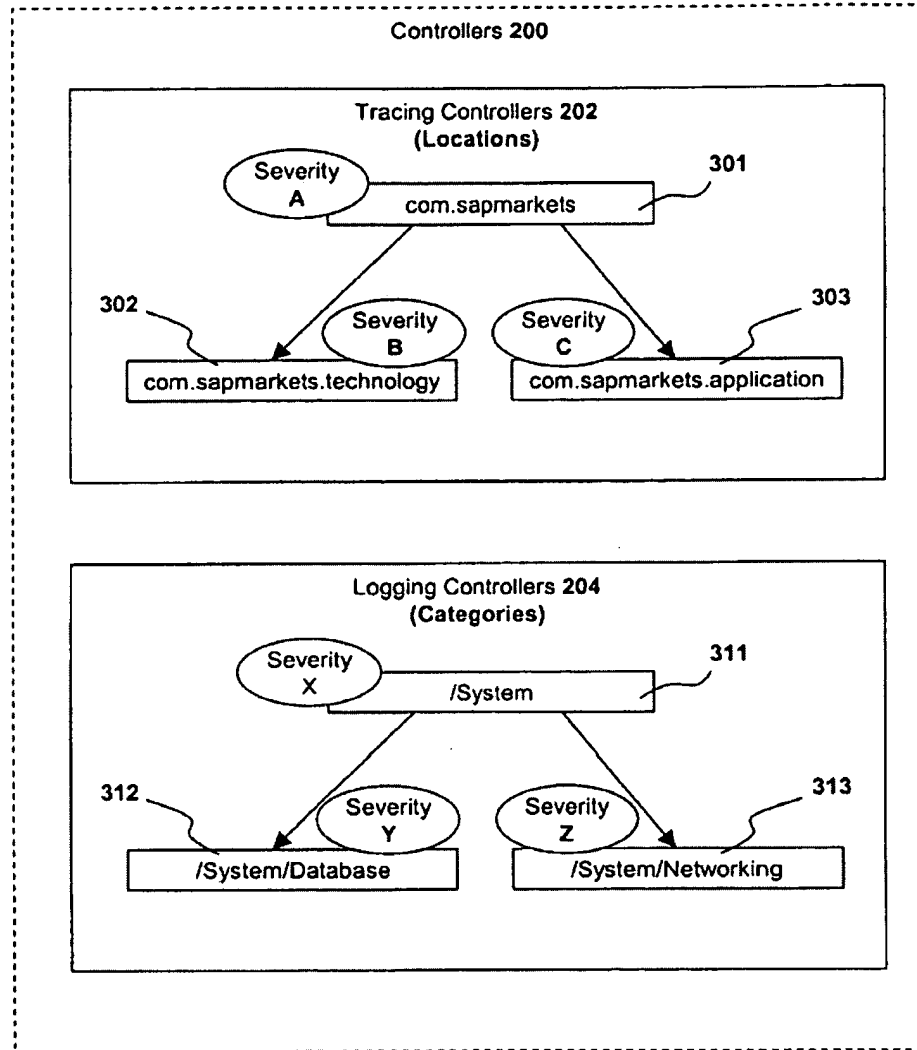
defining a minimum severity level and a maximum severity level with a second controller, the second controller being a child controller to the first controller in a controller hierarchy so as to receive said severity level as a parameter from said first controller; and

setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the severity level of the first controller if the severity level of the first controller is between the minimum severity level and the maximum severity level, said first and second controllers each being:

an instance of a tracing controller; or,

an instance of a logging controller.

Thus, referring to the emphasized claim language above, the Applicant's claim 1 is directed to (1) a pair of tracing controllers or a pair of logging controllers (2) having a parent/child relationship between them such that (3) a severity level parameter is passed from the parent (first) controller to the child (second) controller through the parent/child relationship. These features are clearly described in the Applicant's specification. Figure 3 of the Applicant's specification is presented below which clearly shows pairs of tracing controllers or pairs of logging controllers in a parent/child relationship.



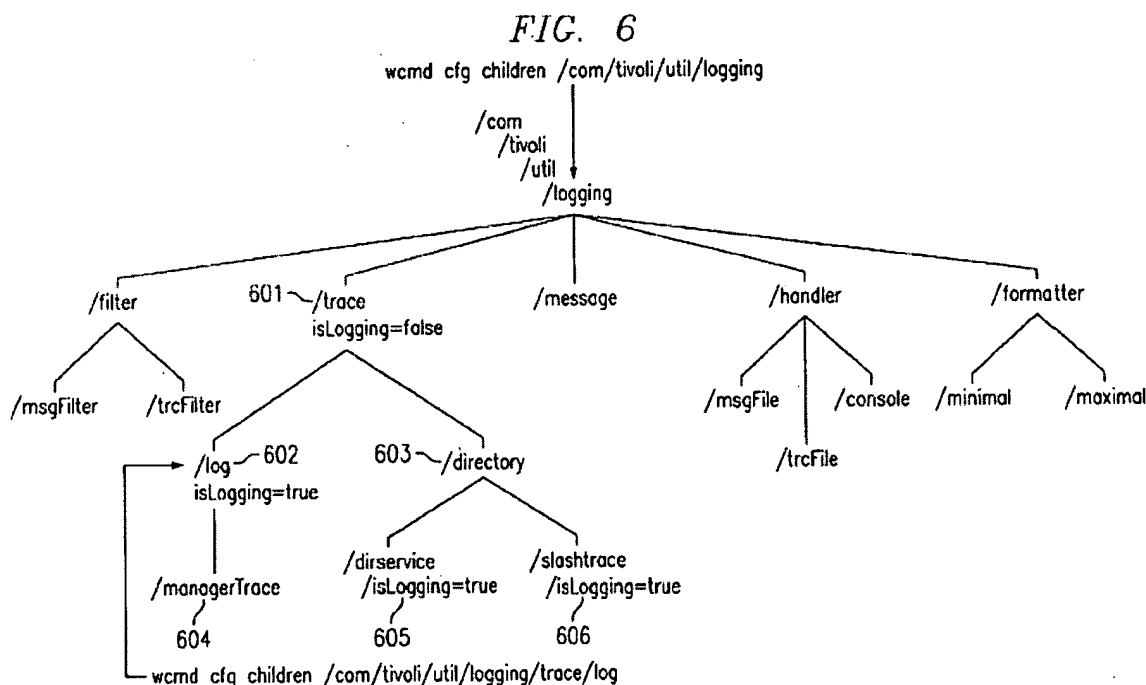
Moreover paragraph [0030] of the Applicant's specification, for example, clearly recites the passing of a severity parameter from the parent controller to the child controller. See, e.g., Applicant's specification paragraph [0030] ("In one embodiment, the various controllers 200 are arranged into logical hierarchies in which each child controller inherits properties from its parent (e.g., its severity settings and its output destinations.").

By contrast, according to the Examiner,

[a severity level] is the configuration of a filter, for example the amount of data passed to handlers from the filter can change based on the filter configuration and thus the severity level is defined.

Thus, in order for the Examiner's theory of rejection to correctly cover the Applicant's claim 1, Shah must disclose that the configuration of a filter is passed as a parameter from a child tracing/log controller to a parent tracing/log controller through the parent/child relationship.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Shah makes no such disclosure. The Examiner cites paragraph [0059] of Shah as disclosing the claimed parent/child relationship between the controllers. Paragraph [0059] of Shah essentially describes Fig. 6 of Shah which is presented immediately below:



The Applicant respectfully submits that it is not possible for the hierarchy of Fig. 6 of Shah to disclose the passing of a filter configuration between parent and child logging or tracing controllers. Firstly, Fig. 6 of Shah does not appear to disclose parent/child pairs of log controller or tracing controllers. Instead Fig. 6 of Shah seems to only indicate that a tracing controller can be a child of a logging controller (see "logging" root above

"/trace" 601). That is, Shah does not appear to contemplate parent/child pairs of the same kind of controller (logging or tracing).

Moreover, the hierarchy of Fig. 6 of Shah does not appear to show that filter configuration parameters are passed between controllers as part of a parent/child relationship. Here, a lone "filter" node is observed in Shah's hierarchy that does not seem to indicate any of its parameters are passed to either of the tracing node 601 or the logging root node.

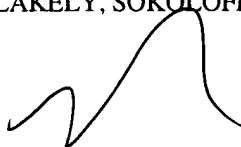
Thus the Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Shah fail to cove the claim 1 of the present application. For similar reasons the Applicant respectfully submits that Shah fails to cover independent claims 10, 19 and 28 of the present application. Therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims of the present application are covered by the combination of Shah and Ullman and respectfully requests their allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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